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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-10 GSA-02 DRC-01 /174 W
---------- 124592
R 301057Z NOV 73
FM USMISSION BERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC 2683
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 2036

E.O. 11652-GDS
TAGS:ENRG, WB
SUBJECT: OIL STOCKS IN BERLIN

1. OIL STOCKS ARE RELATIVELY HIGH IN BERLIN BECAUSE OF STOCKPILE MAINTAINED HERE IN EVENT OF ANOTHER BLOCKADE. ALLIES AND SENAT HAVE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS STOCKPILE SHOULD NOT BE DEPLETED AS PART OF ADJUSTMENT TO CURRENT REDUCTIONS IN DELIVERIES FROM MIDDLE EAST. AS OF NOVEMBER 13, COMMERCIAL DEALERS' OF MOST CRITICAL ITEM, LIGHT HEATING OIL, WERE ADEQUATE FOR ABOUT 5 WEEKS OF VERY COLD WINTER WEATHER OR TWO MONTHS BASED ON 1972 AVERAGE CONSUMPTION F OR ENTIRE
YEAR AND STOCKPILE IS ABOUT 30 PERCENT LARGER THAN COMMERCIAL STOCKS.

2. STARTING NOVEMBER 26, DELIVERIES TO BERLIN OF LIGHT HEATING OIL ARE DOWN
ABOUT 15 PERCENT FROM ALL COMPANIES EXCEPT FIRM BROKERING PUR-CHASES FROM GDR. BULK DELIVERIES OF DIESEL FUEL TO TRUCKING FIRMS ARE ALSO DOWN, FROM 10 TO 30 PERCENT STARTING IN NOVEMBER.
SENAT SAYS REGIONAL CLEARING OFFICE ESTABLISHED TO
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CONSIDER OIL PROBLEMS DECIDED NOVEMBER 27 TRUCKS SHOULD

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GET NEEDED FUEL IN UNDIMINISHED QUANTITIES AT THE EXPENSE OF LIGHT HEATING OIL, WHICH WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE REATIONED STARTING IN JANUARY. CHANCELLOR BRANDT'S NOVEMBER 29 ANNOUNCEMENT CONFIRMED THAT DIESEL FUEL REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY. MEANWHILE, ON NOVEMBER 26, FRG MINISTRY OF FINANCE LIFTED LIMITATION ON PURCHASES AT INTERTANK ON TRANSIT ROUTES TO WHAT WAS CONSUMED ON THOSE ROUTES PLUS 50 LITERS SO THAT TRUCKS AND BUSES CAN NOW FILL THEIR TANKS IN GDR WITHOUT PAY-MENT OF CUSTOMS OR GASOLINE TAX TO FRG. GDR RECENTLY RAISED PRICE FROM 55 TO 75 PFENNINGS PER LITER BUT THIS IS STILL FAR LESS THAN FRG PRICE OF 106.

3. GOVERNING MAYOR INFORMED COMMANDANTS NOVEMBER 26 THAT PERSONAL HARDSHIP UNLIKELY BUT ADVERSE EFFECTS ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT MIGHT BECOME EVIDENT IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS. HE WAS NOT UNDULY CONCERNED ABOUT A MODERATE REDUCTION IN BERLIN FLIGHT SCHEDULES BUT OBSERVED THAT SUCH REDUCTIONS COULD LEAD TO UNFOUNDED RUMORS AND GENERATE EXAGGERATED CONCERNS ABOUT THE FUTURE.KLEIN

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